

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for producing an option menu comprising:
 - a plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits,
 - 5 each producing a video output; and
 - a processor coupled to said plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits for utilizing said video output of each of said plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits to generate an option menu.

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2. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein each of said on-screen display integrated circuits is capable of producing eight background colors, eight foreground colors, and a video display having a maximum of fifteen rows by thirty columns of characters,
15 and wherein each character comprises a twelve by eighteen pixel matrix.

3. A system for producing an option menu according to claim 1, wherein each on-screen display integrated circuit is capable of displaying characters in a plurality of fonts.
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4. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein each on-screen display integrated circuit
is capable of displaying a plurality of foreground colors.

5 5. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein each on-screen display integrated circuit
is capable of displaying a plurality of background colors.

6. A system for producing an option menu according to
10 claim 1, further comprising:

a second set of on-screen display integrated circuits
for producing a cursor on said option menu, wherein said
processor integrates said cursor with said option menu.

15 7. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6, wherein said system is disposed in a user
workstation comprising a keyboard, mouse, and cursor
control device.

20 8. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 7, wherein said cursor on said option menu is
controlled via said keyboard and said cursor control
device.

9. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6, wherein said second set of on-screen display
integrated circuits is capable of displaying said cursor in
a plurality of fonts.

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10. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6, wherein said second set of on-screen display
integrated circuits is comprised of a first on-screen
display integrated circuit for generating an outline of
10 said cursor and a second on-screen display integrated
circuit for generating the body of said cursor.

11. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6, further comprising:

15 a first clock for controlling the timing of said
plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits; and
 a second clock for controlling the timing of said
second set of on-screen display integrated circuits.

20 12. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6, wherein said system is implemented on a daughter
board to facilitate connection to said user workstation.

13. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6, wherein the size of said option menu can be
changed using said keyboard and said cursor control device.

5 14. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6 wherein said option menu is maximized to fill a
video screen.

10 15. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 6, wherein the color depth of said option menu can be
changed using said keyboard and said cursor control device.

15 16. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein said processor produces an option menu in
a digital video format.

17. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein said processor produces an option menu in
an analog video format.

20 18. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein said option menu is displayed on a 4:3
ratio video monitor.

19. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein said option menu is displayed on a 16:9
ratio video monitor.

5 20. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein said option menu is displayed in
conjunction with an external video source.

10 21. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 1, wherein said processor combines the video outputs
of six on-screen display integrated circuits to produce
said option menu.

15 22. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 21, wherein the color outputs of said on-screen
display integrated circuits are combined by said processor
to produce a single option menu.

20 23. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 21, wherein the video outputs of each of said on-
screen display integrated circuits are combined such that
each said video output is displayed in a different section
of a video monitor.

24. A system for producing an option menu according to
claim 21, wherein said processor utilizes four on-screen
display integrated circuits to produce said option menu.

5 25. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a
computer management system, said apparatus comprising:

a daughter board;
a plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits
on said daughter board, each producing a video output; and
10 a processor on said daughter board to receive said
video outputs to produce an option menu, wherein said
option menu displays a list of computers connected to said
computer management system.

15 26. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a
computer management system according to claim 25, wherein
said list of computers is color coded.

27. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a
20 computer management system according to claim 25, wherein
said list is automatically updated if computers are
connected or disconnected to said system.

28. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 25, wherein said list is generated utilizing the video outputs of more than one of said plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits.

29. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 25, further comprising:

10 a second set of on-screen display integrated circuits for producing a cursor on said option menu, wherein said processor integrates said cursor with said option menu.

30. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 29, wherein said system is disposed in a user workstation comprising a keyboard, mouse, and cursor control device.

31. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 30, wherein said cursor on said option menu is controlled via said keyboard and said cursor control device.

32. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 31, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers utilizing said cursor.

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33. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 32, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers to control.

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34. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 32, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers to view the status of said selected computer.

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35. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 32, wherein a user can select a connected computer from said list of connected computers to perform diagnostics.

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36. An apparatus for creating an option menu for use in a computer management system according to claim 22, wherein said list is logically organized.

37. A method for producing an option menu for use in a computer management system comprising the steps of:

 sending control signals and synchronization signals to

 5 a first plurality of on-screen display integrated circuits;

 sending control signals and synchronization signals to

 a second plurality of on-screen display integrated

 circuits;

 receiving video outputs from said first plurality of

 10 on-screen display integrated circuits to produce an option

 menu; and

 receiving video outputs from said second plurality of

 on-screen display integrated circuits to produce a cursor

 for said option menu.

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